(b) if so, the number of Indian nurses who would be affected by this ban annually; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid unemployment amongst the qualified nurses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The United Kingdom has not enforced a ban on recruitment of nurses from outside the European Union. However, on July 3, 2006, the Department of Health, UK removed 'general nurses' from the 'Skills Shortage Occupations List' of the UK Home Office. The change in regulation does not affect advanced and senior nurse grades in certain specialties. The change will make no difference to nurses currently working in the UK. The change in the regulation does not stop UK employers from undertaking international recruitment of nurses. They have to demonstrate that they cannot fill a post with a UK or European Economic Area (EEA) applicant first. The new regulations are likely to come into effect on August 14, 2006. Any likely impact on international recruitment is not yet known.

(c) There is no unemployment amongst the qualified nurses in the country.

Medical Colleges

1882. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical colleges that the Medical Council of India inspected during 2005-06 and 2006-07, till date, State-wise;

(b) how many of these visits or inspections revealed staff deficiency;

(c) the names of colleges with the staff deficiency;

(d) whether Government would review the pattern of such inspections by MCI in public interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) Inspection of medical college by Medical Council of India is a continuous process to maintain the standard in medical education. The Council conducts inspections of medical colleges and attached

hospitals for the purpose of making recommendations of the Central Government for grant of permission to establish a new college, or to start new course of study, or to increase intake capacity or for grant of renewal of permission and also for recognition of medical courses and also for maintaining the standard of medical education in the recognized colleges/ institutions. The colleges which are found not meeting the requirements as per the regulations are given opportunity to rectify the deficiences. In such events the colleges are subjected to re-inspection for varification of compliance report by the MCI. The process of inspection continues till the college fulfills all the requirements as per the regulations. According to MCI, inspections of 262 medical colleges were conducted during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07. In addition MCI has also conducted 25 periodical inspections of recognized colleges to ensure maintenance of standard of medical education.

Eradication of communicable diseases

1883. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the eradication of Hepatitis-B, AIDS, Cancer etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government to eradicate the above dangerous diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) In order to control spread of the dangerous diseases like Hepatitis-B, AIDS, Cancer etc., this Ministry is operating various National Disease Control Programmes. Details of these programmes are given in the Statement (*See* below). Information Education & Communication (IEC) components are also incorporated in each of these programmes to facilitate creation of awareness about disease causing factors/life styles.

Statement

Details of National Disease Control Programme

1. HEPATITIS-B

While the general health care delivery system in the country is well